

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

After entry of this amendment, claims 1, 5, 10, and 24-27 are pending. Claims 2-4, 6-9, and 11-23 have been canceled without prejudice to future prosecution. New claims 24-27 have been added. New claims 24-27 correspond to canceled method claims 11 and 18 and are directed to antigenic subsequences set forth in allowable claims 1 and 5. Thus, no new matter has been added by the new claims.

Telephone Discussion of August 30, 2004

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Stucker for extending the courtesy of the telephonic discussion held on August 30, 2004 with Applicants' representative Carol A. Fang. During the discussion, the claims deemed allowable (*i.e.*, claims 1, 2, 5, and 10) were discussed. Rejoinder of method claims 11 and 18 was also discussed. Applicants thank Examiner Stucker for his time.

Based on the discussion of August 30, 2004, it is Applicants' understanding that claims 1, 5, and 10 are in condition for allowance and that method claims 24-27 which contain all the limitations of allowable claims 1 and 5 are also allowable under rejoinder practice as set forth in MPEP § 821.04.

Appl. No. 09/869,003
Amtd. dated September 1, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 15, 2004

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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